

North Bengal Development



After the new government came into power, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, **on the very first day of assuming office**, announced the **creation of a new Department** for the overall **development of the six districts of North Bengal**. The North Bengal Development Department was notified **on 8th July, 2011**.

For the development of North Bengal, **Rs. 200 crore had been allocated in the budget for 2011-2012** and accordingly a scheme bank has been prepared in consultation with the MLAs of North Bengal and Members of Uttarbanga Unnayan Parshad.

Activities & Achievements during 2011-2012

1. **Branch Secretariat** of North Bengal Development Department has **started functioning** at Vivekananda Bhawan, Hill Cart Road, Siliguri after its inauguration by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.
2. **23 posts of officers and staff** have so far been **sanctioned** for the Department **apart from 19 senior engineering officers, 24 Sub-Assistant Engineers and 3 Data Entry Operators**.
3. **Construction of the CM's Secretariat** in North Bengal has already been conceptualized and land for the same has been identified and **foundation stone has been laid** by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.
4. Conceptualization of the Jalpaiguri Sports Complex has been initiated.
5. Number of ongoing schemes as on 31-5-2011 was 361. It has come down to 159 due to close monitoring and meetings with the District Magistrates of North Bengal.
6. The **total allocation of fund upto May 2011 under Uttarbanga Unnayan Parshad (UUP) in 10 years was Rs. 380 crore**. (since its formation in 2000-2001). On the contrary, **Rs. 200 crore has been allocated in a single financial year**, i.e. 2011-12 after the new Government came into power.
7. **PWD** has been asked to prepare estimates and requested **to execute 27 schemes** approved by the Finance Department and Rs. 45.54 crore has been sanctioned for this purpose and has been allotted to the PWD.
8. **A scheme bank containing 84 schemes** has been **prepared** with the help of Members of UUP and approved by it. A sum of Rs. 54 crore has been sanctioned by the Finance Department to the UUP. Out of this sanctioned amount, **some schemes have already been taken up for execution**.
9. In observance of the death anniversary of Kabiguru Rabindranath Tagore, a **cultural programme** was held at **Rabindra Bhawan, Mungpoo at Darjeeling** on 8 August 2011. Renovation/repair of the Rabindra Bhawan at Mungpoo was done at an estimated cost of Rs. 5 lakh.
10. **Existing bottlenecks for construction of Adabari Ghat Bridge have been cleared**. This bridge will considerably shorten the distance between Sitai and Dinhata in Cooch Behar. Total estimated cost is Rs. 102 crore out of which Rs. 60 crore will be contributed by PWD and the rest will be provided by North Bengal Development Department.
11. Rs. 4.77 crore has been sanctioned for the completion of setting up of **Circuit Bench of Kolkata High Court at Jalpaiguri**.
12. An amount of Rs. 10 crore (approximately) was allocated to Tourism Department for **promotion and renovation of tourist spots like Murti and Jaldapara** in Japaiguri district and renovation of tourist lodges in **Kalimpong**, development of

- gateway of Siliguri (Mainak Tourist Lodge), Eco-Park at **Takdah**, Darjeeling.
13. Rs.10 crore has been sanctioned for the purchase of medical equipments, machines etc through West Bengal Medical Services Corpn. Ltd. Health Department for the 5(five) district hospitals in North Bengal.
 14. A sum of Rs. 125.51 lakh has been sanctioned for **renovation of Dinabandhu Mancha at Siliguri.**
 15. **Dry food, garments and medicines distributed to the labourers of closed Dheklapara Tea Garden.** Also, electrification and water supply project have been completed in the area.
 16. The **problem of wage revision** for tea garden workers resolved at the initiative of North Bengal Development Department in coordination with Labour Department.
 17. **Roads From Raiganj To Barsoi- Construction of road from Raiganj in Uttar Dinajpur to Barsoi will start soon.** This road will facilitate the local businessmen and passengers to avail train services from Barsoi Jn. in Bihar. The Government of Bihar also gave consent to construct the rest of the road from Bengal border to Barsoi Jn.
 18. **Heritage Road In Cooch Behar- Construction of a heritage road from Khapaidanga to Bochamari** in Cooch Behar has been approved by the Finance Department. The work of this road **will start soon.**
 19. **Natya Utkarsha Kendra-** A proposal to set up a **Natya Utkarsha Kendra** at **Balurghat** has been sanctioned and fund has been allocated for this purpose.
 20. **Bhutni Bridge-** A bridge over River Fulhar connecting Bhutni with Manikchak has been approved. Construction of the bridge will start soon.
 21. **Central Bus Stand, Malda-** The unfinished work of Central Bus Stand, Malda at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.2 crore has been **taken up for completion.**
 22. **Alipurduar Indoor Stadium-** The incomplete work of Alipurduar Stadium in Jalpaiguri district has been taken up for **early completion.**
 23. **Market Complex At Gangarampur-** Construction of a market complex at Gangarampur in Dakshin Dinajpur district **has been taken up.**
 24. **Agricultural College At Majhian-** Process is on to set up an **agricultural college at Majhian in Dakshin Dinajpur.** Fund has been allotted for the improvement of existing building to run the college.
 25. **D.G.H.C.-** For **widening and strengthening of different roads** under Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC), an amount of **Rs. 20 crore has been provided to D.G.H.C.** For the improvement of Darjeeling District Hospital and drainage system of the adjoining area, Rs. 75 lakh has been sanctioned.
 26. **R.I.D.F.-** Development & Planning Department of the Government of West Bengal was entrusted with the task of execution of different schemes under R.I.D.F. for North Bengal Development Department for the year 2011-12. The budget allocation was Rs. 30 crore out of which schemes worth Rs. 18 crore have been sanctioned by NABARD for the year 2011-12.
 27. In pursuit of talent hunt from amongst Adivasis of Terai and Dooars, **“Birsha Munda Adivasi Football Tournament”** was held on 14th November 2011 at Metelli in Jalpaiguri and Gazole in Malda. 54 blocks and 18 sub-divisions participated. Shri Baichung Bhutia distributed the prizes.
 28. **Uttarbanga Utsav 2012** was **inaugurated** in all the six districts of North Bengal **on 10 February 2012** by Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal. The festival was **celebrated at 17 different places in North Bengal.** The festival was held from 10 February to 16 February keeping Siliguri Sub-Division and Jalpaiguri as focus areas of the festival. Besides 2269 local artistes, as many as 2619 eminent artistes from Kolkata participated in the Utsav. While some reputed artistes from Bangladesh also participated in the festival, a lot of folk artistes from other North-eastern States of India took part in the festival with active support of Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata under Ministry of Culture. In the sit-and-draw competition, 4872 children participated which is considered to be one of such largest programmes so far held in India. As many as 1050 track suites were given to 70 clubs of North Bengal in addition to Rs. 50,000/- to each of the 70 clubs for infrastructure

development. Moreover, 15 eminent personalities in different fields, as under, were awarded 'Banga Sanman' with Rs. 1 lakh each and a citation.

Sl. No.	Name of the Awardee
1.	Shri Joy Goswami
2.	Smt. Sandhya Roy
3.	Shri Shirsendu Mukhopadhyay
4.	Shri Sanjeev Chattopadhyay
5.	Bibhas Chakraborty
6.	Shri Nachiketa Chakraborty
7.	Shri Chranjeet Chakraborty
8.	Anjan Dutta
9.	Shri Baichung Bhutia
10.	Shri Ranjit Mullick
11.	Ustad Rashid Khan
12.	Shri Harisankar Roy
13.	Harimadhab Mukhopadhyay
14.	Dr. Indra Bahadur Rai
15.	Dr. Ashrukumar Sikdar

An enthralling 8.69 lakh audience of six districts with satellite audience of 2.5 crore viewed and enjoyed this captivating programme.

29. 30 computers for 4949 students of Mahabir Hindi High School at Birpara, a tribal belt in Jalpaiguri, has

been approved and a sum of Rs. 9 lakh has been sanctioned for this purpose.

30. Rs. 50,000/- for seriously injured and Rs. 25,000/- for minor injured have been sanctioned to 38 persons and 17 persons respectively being earthquake victims. The Department also took initiative to arrange for sending of the dead bodies to Kolkata. Apart from that, the victims of Bijanbari Bridge collapse incident and a bus accident were provided free medical assistance in Siliguri and Kolkata.
31. At the initiative of North Bengal Development Department, the victims of hail-storm that hit Chopra were given 1000 saris, 1500 tarpaulins, chirah, gur and also Rs. 10,000/- each to two families affected most.
32. Departmental website has already been launched.

Upcoming Projects

- To set up a Field Unit of National Institute for Cholera & Enteric Diseases (NICED), a site has been selected with the help of the Health Department.
- The construction of a fly-over at Alipurduar on cost sharing basis between the Railways and the North Bengal Development Department is to start shortly.
- St. Xavier's College at Rajganj in Jalpaiguri is to be made a Centre of Excellence.
